

by the Department of Community Development under the leadership of Shri V. Ramanathan, Member of the Board of Revenue, Orissa, in 1967, to undertake a detailed study of the part played by the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Community Development Agencies in basic land reform measures has submitted its report ;

(b) if so, its main recommendations and Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether a copy of the Study Team's report will be laid on the Table ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Copies of the Study Team's Report have already been laid on the Table of the House. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

Expansion of Hindustan Cables Ltd.,

*317. SHRI S. K. TAPURIA :
SHRI S. K. KOTHARI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2470 on the 28th November, 1968 and state :

(a) whether a final decision has been taken regarding the expansion of Hindustan Cables Ltd. or whether Government propose to meet their requirements of the telephone cables through private sector ; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. The Matter is under active consideration of the Govt. and a final decision has not been taken so far.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Sugarcane Prices

*318. SHRI BABURAO PATEL :
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :
SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :

SHRI VISHWA NATH
PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarcane prices have been again revised ;

(b) if so, the present prices, State-wise, with a list of previous ones ;

(c) the reasons for revision in such short time ;

(d) the details of the long-range policy and principles followed by Government in the matter of sugarcane crop, sugar making mills and the distribution and sale of sugar, with details of State controls at various stages ;

(e) whether the policy is aimed at giving enough sugar at a cheap price to the Indian consumer ; and

(f) if so the reasons for rise in sugar prices and fluctuations thereon steps taken to stabilise the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The statutory minimum price of sugarcane fixed for the season 1968-69 has not been revised but the factories are generally paying more than the minimum price.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise minimum prices of sugarcane notified for 1968-69 and the comparative price for 1967-1968 is laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No- LT-216/69].

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Central Government's long-range policy in regard to sugar administration is directed towards ensuring a fair price to the sugarcane growers and creating conditions for the mills to enable them to maximise sugar production. As regards distribution and sale of sugar, the Central Government releases every month fixed quotas of levy sugar to the State Governments for controlled distribution at fixed prices. The State Government fix whole sale and retail prices on the basis of the ex-factory prices of sugar, the actual transport charges and incidental expenses including a suitable margin of profit to the wholesalers and retailers. The actual scale